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ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY PAKISTAN

(Presented by Pakistan)

1. I would like to express my profound regards on honoring me with the opportunity to speak in front of this esteemed Assembly today. I would also like to express, at the onset, Pakistan's support to ICAO's policies and guidelines relating to all aspects of Civil Aviation.
2. Pakistan is a strong supporter of ICAO's work in the field of Civil Aviation. Keeping in view the directives of our Prime Minister, the Government of Pakistan has recently formulated the National Aviation Policy in the year 2019 and I am confident in maintaining today that the said policy encompasses the latest guidelines and work into different aspects of Civil Aviation ranging from Governmental role in Regulations to aircraft and aerodrome operators to Human Resource Capacity building mechanisms. The National Aviation Policy – 2019 rests on four cardinal principles of: **Reduced Cost of doing business, Ease of doing business, Facilitation and Rationalization**. A state of the art green field airport is being constructed at Islamabad. Furthermore, Pakistan is transitioning from rather restrictive paradigm to the liberalized market access and grant of rights approach towards its bilateral Partners. The National Aviation Policy – 2019 also proclaims support to ICAO's continuing work on the Economic Development of Air Transport viz-a-viz the conclusion of liberalized Air Services Agreements. Pakistan, through the National Aviation Policy – 2019, has encouraged its bilateral Partners to conclude liberal air services agreement based on the principles of reciprocity, organic growth and national interest. Pakistan has also recently adopted the policy of the determination of capacity/frequency regimes based on competition/market forces.
3. Pakistan has also showcased its resolve and commitment towards ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices through acquiring above-global average scores in the Audits being conducted by the ICAO. Additionally, separation of **Regulatory** function from **Facilitation** and formation of independent **Aircraft Accident Investigation Board** has also been undertaken. This clearly establishes the desire to depart from traditional aviation paradigms thereby driving the Pakistan aviation industry in line with ICAO's guidelines and practices.
4. Pakistan recognizes the concerns of the aviation community on Lahore and Karachi FIR closure or the restricted Air Traffic operations undertaken due to security reasons. Consequently, contingency routes were immediately provided by Pakistan in coordination with ICAO Regional office to ensure

handsome connectivity between Muscat and Mumbai FIRs but unfortunately few contingency routes were not agreed to through Mumbai FIR by India.

5. Pakistan remains cognizant of the difficulties faced by the aviation community but let me assure you that we were compelled to impose these restrictions owing to threats to our National Security and Sovereignty of our Airspace in an unauthorized manner. And it was in the interest of the safety of all passengers travelling through civil airlines that we had to restrict aircraft movement to the contingency routes till relative improvement of the security environment. Subsequently, with incremental release of air routes, on 16th July, 2019, Pakistan opened its complete airspace. However, rest assured, PCAA is not considering any enhancement in air navigation charges with reference to recovery of revenue lost during the prolonged airspace closures.

6. It is also highlighted that since the Afghan War in 2001, Pakistan is successfully supporting air traffic flows from Europe to East / South East Asia and vice versa overflying Kabul FIR including management of heavy air traffic flows under Bay of Bengal Cooperative Air Traffic Flow Management System (BOBCAT). The role of Pakistan through the utmost facilitation of international efforts in the War against Terrorism has proven our resolve to stand in unison with the global community in a time of need.

7. Furthermore, Pakistan is continuing to devise, design and implement specialized measures to enunciate the security of Civil Aviation in the National Policy making. Fool proof security protocols along with up-gradation of security infrastructure including passengers, baggage, cargo and mail screening equipment, in conformance with international standards, have successfully been implemented to ensure the highest standards of security at our major airports. Our efforts to ensure security protocols have been inspected by TSA and UK recently and have been endorsed by the esteemed authorities.

8. This auspicious occasion calls upon the need to thank the esteemed Council of the ICAO, all Member States and Observers in attendance for the historic developments that have taken place in the Aviation Industry since Chicago in 1944. The achievements contained therein the life-span of International Civil Aviation have, without any doubt, changed the course of history and the human race for the better and I am hopeful that in the times to come, ICAO and all Industry Stakeholders shall continue to stand at the forefront of being the contributors that enable civilization make the best use of available resources.

9. Last but not the least, I would like to take a moment to thank Pakistan's bilateral Partners for their sheer commitment, devotion and cooperation in continuing to support the development of Civil Aviation in Pakistan in the recent years and rest assured, Pakistan will continue to exhibit its commitment and support to our bilateral Partners in the future.

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